

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 18, line 20 to page 19, line 4 as follows:

In the present invention, the primary-oxidized state of a cystine bond (-S-S-), namely, lower order oxidized state means mono-oxidized state (-SO-S-), di-oxidized state (-SO₂-S-) or mixed state thereof. Particularly, it means the state rich in mono-oxidized state. While, the higher order oxidized state means di-oxidized state, tri-oxidized state (-SO₂-SO-), tetra-oxidized state (-SO₂-SO₂-) or mixed state thereof.

It is known that though fission of a -S-S- bond by a ~~reduc state (-SO₂-SO-), tetra-oxidized state (-SO₂-SO₂-) or mixed state ing reducing~~ agent is not easy and requires a longer time in the case of mono-oxidized state, while in di, tri or tetra-oxidized state, fission is effected relatively easily.